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TITLE

ORAL VACCINATION AGAINST LAWSONIA INTRACELLULARIS, A COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO IMPROVE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PARAMETERS IN A SPANISH FARM

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CONTENT

Introduction

Porcine proliferative enteropathy caused by *Lawsonia intracellularis* (L.i) is highly prevalent in Spanish farms. Subclinical disease represents an estimated economic impact between € 1.3 and € 18.5 per affected pig. On the other hand, the swine industry requests a reduction in the use of antibiotics in production animals. This study aims to evaluate the efficacy of Enterisol Ileitis (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH) in terms of performance improvement in a Spanish pig farm.

Materials and Methods

In a 300 sows farrow to finish, subclinical Ileitis was diagnosed in fattening pigs and L.i. infection was confirmed by ELISA. A total of 6,768 fattening, 3,393 non-vaccinated in 8 batches and 3,375 in 13 batches vaccinated with the nonvirulent live vaccine Enterisol? Ileitis. The pigs were orally vaccinated 2 weeks after weaning via drinking water in the nursery unit.

The parameters recorded for each fattening batch were: Weight in (Kg), Weight out (Kg), Mortality rate (%), Average days of occupation (ADO, days), Average daily feed intake (ADFI, Kg/d), Average daily gain (ADG, kg/d) and Feed conversion rate (FCR, Kg).

Data was analyzed using Mann Withney U test with R Software and SPC with Minitab.17.1.0.

Results

Vaccination led to a statistically significant reduction of 9.9 days of occupation, 0.258 kg. in FCR and a 15.7% improvement of the ADG (+0.106 kg/day).

Although there was a reduction of mortality and an improvement of daily feed intake (ADFI) during the vaccination period, the differences were not statistically significant.

Discussion and Conclusions

In this field experience, we found evidence supporting that performance parameters in chronically infected farms can be improved with Enterisol? Ileitis resulting in a clear economic benefit.

Oral vaccination as preventive alternative may contribute to reduce the use of antibiotics in the fattening of pigs and improves the pigs' health, the technical and economic results.